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The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:-

Please cancel Claims 1-13 and 33-38, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 14 and 18 to read as follows. A marked-up version of those claims showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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14 (Twice Amended) An image input device for picking up images of one subject or more by switching of an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

an image pickup unit adapted to pick up an image of a subject and to output an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

an image pickup direction switch adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit;

a first detection unit adapted to detect a change of an angle of the image pickup direction; and

a control unit adapted to automatically store an image signal including a predetermined angle in a storage unit, in accordance with detecting a change of the image pickup direction by said first detection unit.

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28. (Twice Amended) An image input method for picking up an image of a subject by switching an image pickup direction and outputting image signals corresponding to picked-up images of the subjects, the image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting a change of an angle of the image pickup direction; and
automatically storing an image signal including a predetermined angle in a storage unit, in accordance with detecting a change of an angle of the image pickup direction by said first detection unit.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 25, 2001. Claims 14-23, 28 and 30-32 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-13 and 33-38 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 14 and 28, the remaining independent claims, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, in terms that distinguish over the art of record. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 14-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicant has carefully amended Claim 14 by deleting the recitation that was the basis for this rejection. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, first paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.